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CL 550 AME History and Discipline

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CL550 AME History and Discipline
Spring 2005
Thursday, 2:30pm - 5:30pm
Waymon Dixon
“Subject to change”

PURPOSE

This course satisfies the requirements for ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church by instilling a rich awareness of the ecclesiastical, doctrinal and historical dimensions of Wesleyan Methodism as it is experienced in the black church generally and by African Methodists particularly.

COMPETENCIES

Having successfully completed this course, the student should be able to:

- Articulate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the conference system.
- Identify essential components in the ecclesiastical structure of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Correlate AME Church History with AME Church Doctrine in order to nurture and sustain the traditional witness to faith and order in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Define “connectionalism”, indigenization, holiness, ecumenism, “the call to preach”, itinerancy, stewardship, episcopacy, Methodism, The Four Horsemen and other concepts relative to the history and heritage of African Methodism.
- Describe the unique relationship between Pastors, Stewards Trustees, Class Leaders, Stewardesses, Deaconesses, Missionaries, the Laity, and other auxiliaries within the local church.
- Utilize The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2000-2004 and Methodist Polity by Bishop Henry McNeal Turner as working handbooks for mission and ministry.
- Organize an AME Church and effectively pastor a local church in its sacramental and liturgical witness to the Trinity in the contemporary existential situation of African Methodists throughout our global village.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2000 - 2004, AMEC Publishing House, 2000.

The Romance Of African Methodism, George A. Singleton, AME Press, 1985.

Methodist Polity, Henry McNeal Turner, AMEC Publishing House, 1986.

What A.M.E.'s Believe, John Hurst Adams, Seventh Episcopal District, 2000.

The Life Experience and Gospel Labors of Richard Allen, Rt. Rev. Richard Allen, AMEC Publishing House, 1990.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES

History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Daniel Alexander Payne, AMEC Publishing House, 1998.

The Black Church in the African American Experience, C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya, Duke University Press, 1998.

The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Theology in a Post-liberal Age, George A. Lindbeck, The Westminster Press, 1984.

God's Transforming Spirit: Black Church Renewal, Preston Robert Washington, Judson Press, 1988.

A.M.E. Liturgy, AMEC Publishing House, 2000.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and active class participation is expected. Assignments are expected on the due date. Exceptions will be allowed only for extreme illness or emergency. Attendance and participation equal 10% of the final grade.
2. Readings and written reflections on the assigned readings represent an important element of the course. It is expected that each student will have read the assignments for particular class session and topic. It is also expected that each student will turn in a one to two page written reflection of the assigned reading. The written assignment is due on the date of the topic discussion in class. Written reflections equal 30% of the final grade.
3. Each student will prepare and present an eight to ten page on a self-selected topic related to What A.M.E.'s Believe and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2000 - 2004. The paper should present an issue related to our polity, discuss why it is an issue, and take a position that is supported through a rational theological discourse. Sources should be cited via endnotes. Careful attention should be given to style and grammar. Topics should be selected and presented for approval by March 3. All papers will be due at the beginning of the class session on April 28. The paper equals 30% of the final grade.
4. There will be a final examination. It will be in essay format and will examine each student's general understanding of AME History and Polity. The Book of Discipline may be used during the examination. The examination equals 30% of the final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

February 10, 2005

Introduction and Overview

February 17, 2005

AME Doctrine, pp. 1-41. The Meaning of Doctrine. Turner, pp. 1-29. Sinclair, Chapters 1 & 2.

February 24, 2005

The Structure of the Local Church, Pastoral Relations, Pastoral Leadership, Property in relation to the Connectional Church, Doctrine, pp. 65-92. Turner, pp. 61-65. Sinclair, Chapters 3 & 4.

March 3, 2005

Faith and Order: The Itinerant and the Local Ministries. The Call to Preach, Ministerial Ethics, Doctrine, pp. 95-137. Turner, pp. 71-98. Sinclair, Chapters 5 & 6.

Position Paper Proposal Due.

March 10, 2005

The Ecclesiastical Structure of the Connectional AME Church, Doctrine, pp. 139-235. Turner, pp. 99-114. Sinclair, Chapters 7 & 8.

March 17, 2005

The Five Conference System, Doctrine, pp. 236-288. Turner, pp. 29-62; pp. 222-225. Sinclair, Chapters 9 & 10.

March 24, 2005

Reading Week.

March 31, 2005

Indigenization and Overseas Districts, Doctrine, pp. 301-321. Sinclair, Chapters 11 & 12.

April 7, 2005

Judicial Procedures and the Judicial Council, Doctrine, pp. 325-349. Turner, pp. 153-178. Sinclair, Chapter 13 & 14.

April 14, 2005

Connectional Societies and Organizations, Part I, The Women's Missionary Society; Doctrine, pp. 356-405. Sinclair, Chapters 15 & 16.

April 21, 2005

Connectional Societies and Organizations, Part II. Doctrine, 406-496. Sinclair, Appendices A, B, & C.

April 28, 2005

Liturgics, Doctrine, pp. 497-595. Turner, pp. 179-187; 194-204.

Position Papers Due.

May 5

Final Examination

*Please be aware that I am available to you for questions or concerns. You can arrange to see me immediately following most class sessions. It will be helpful to me to know that in advance. You can contact me by phone at 1-352-409-3569 or by e-mail at wtdixon@academicplanet.com.